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# AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS Canberra

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FINAL ISSUE

## JOB VACANCIES, MAY 1978

(FINAL ISSUE. As part of the measures necessary to bring the activities of the ABS within the resources available to it, the surveys of job vacancies have been terminated. This bulletin is therefore the last in the quarterly series.)

### INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr Joe Christensen on Canberra 526573 or our State office, or write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen A.C.T. 2616

For copies of this publication contact Information Services, Canberra 526627 or State offices.

### MAIN FEATURES

At the end of May 1978 the estimated number of job vacancies in Australia, as measured by the quarterly survey, was 32,200, a fall of 10.6 per cent since February 1978. (See paragraphs 3 to 5.)

There were approximately eight vacancies per 1,000 jobs (i.e. filled plus unfilled).

### Introduction

Since May 1977, sample surveys of employers have been conducted quarterly by telephone throughout Australia in February, May, August and November to obtain information about job vacancies. A larger sample survey has been conducted by mail in March each year since 1974. This bulletin contains estimates of the number of job vacancies on 26 May 1978, together with a summary of results of all previous surveys, including preliminary estimates for March 1978. Final and more detailed results of the March 1978 survey will be published in *Job Vacancies, March 1978* (6218.0).

2. Particulars of the scope of the quarterly surveys, definitions of terms used, etc. are given below. The background and methodology of the series are described in *Job Vacancies, May 1977* (6231.0). Information on the annual surveys is published in bulletin 6218.0.

### Scope and Coverage

3. The surveys covered vacancies in private employment and in Australian, State and local government employment. All vacancies for wage and salary earners were included except those:

- in the defence forces
- in agriculture
- in private households employing staff
- for waterside workers employed on a casual basis, and
- for employees of private employers (other than hospitals) not subject to payroll tax.

4. Included in the survey results are vacancies for all categories of employees, including managerial full-time, part-time, permanent, temporary and seasonal

employees; and adults, juniors, trainees, apprentices, cadets, etc. Excluded are vacancies about to be filled by persons already hired, by promotion or transfer of existing employees, or by employees returning from paid or unpaid leave or after industrial disputes. Also excluded are vacancies that were not immediately available for filling on the survey date, that is, those that became available after the specified date, and vacancies for work to be done under contract, such as by building sub-contractors, owner-drivers, etc.

5. Because of limitations in scope and coverage, the survey results do not give estimates of the total number of job vacancies in Australia.

### Sample Design

6. Respondents included in the quarterly surveys were selected from lists of private and government employers stratified by State, industry and number of employees. Employers with 1,200 or more employees were fully enumerated and a sample was selected from the remainder of employers. The total number of employers in the surveys was about 2,800.

7. In the annual March surveys respondents were also stratified by sector. In the government sector all Australian and State government bodies were included and all local government authorities with 250 or more employees. All private employers with 500 or more employees were included. The remaining government and private employers were sampled. The number of employers in the March 1978 survey was about 8,300.

### Definitions

8. A *job vacancy* was defined as a job immediately available for filling on the survey date and for which active steps were being taken by the employer to find or recruit an employee from outside the enterprise or authority in the particular State or Territory. Active steps to find or recruit an employee included efforts to fill vacancies by advertising, by factory notices, by notifying government or private employment agencies or trade unions and by contacting, interviewing or selecting

applicants already registered with the enterprise or authority.

9. *Vacancies for males or females* are those jobs open to male or female applicants without preference.

10. The *job vacancy rate* is calculated by expressing the number of job vacancies as a percentage of the number of employees plus vacancies.

#### **Reliability of the Estimates**

11. Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample of employers, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if the information had been obtained from all employers. One measure of the likely difference is given by the *standard error*, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of employers was included in the survey. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all employers had been included and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

12. Relative standard errors of estimates in this bulletin are less than 20 per cent except where indicated. Estimates with relative standard errors of 30 per cent and over are not shown. Approximate percentage standard errors of estimates of total vacancies for each State and Territory and for Australia are as follows :

	<i>March 1978 (preliminary)</i>	<i>May 1978</i>
N.S.W.	5.3	10.7
Vic.	4.6	11.8
Qld	11.6	17.9
S.A.	6.7	12.9
W.A.	9.9	9.9
Tas.	10.4	15.7
N.T.	7.1	10.4
A.C.T.	7.5	8.8
Australia	2.8	5.7

Thus there are, for example, about two chances in three that the true figure for the number of job vacancies shown for Australia in May 1978 was within the range 30,400 to 34,000 (i.e.  $32,200 \pm 5.7$  per cent of 32,200).

#### **Quarterly and Annual Survey Estimates**

13. Owing to differences in sample size and survey methodology, and because of possible seasonal influences, comparisons between the annual and quarterly estimates should be made with caution.

#### **Seasonal Factors**

14. Comparison of job vacancy figures at different dates may be affected by seasonal influences. The estimates in this bulletin have not been seasonally adjusted.

#### **Comparability with Commonwealth Employment Service Statistics**

15. For purposes of comparison the numbers of job vacancies registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service (CES) are shown in Table 1. These figures are substantially different from the survey estimates, the principal reason being that, because notification of vacancies is voluntary, many vacancies are not registered with the CES. Other reasons are :

- (a) the survey estimates relate to vacancies immediately available for filling on the survey date, whereas the CES statistics relate to vacancies which were unfilled at the Friday nearest the end of the month and which employers claimed could be filled if labour were supplied immediately or within the following month.
- (b) the coverage of the job vacancy surveys is somewhat restricted (see paragraphs 3-5) and the results are subject to sampling variability (see paragraphs 11 and 12).
- (c) the CES figures may include some vacancies already filled or cancelled by the date at which the figures are compiled, but about which the CES may not have been notified.

#### **Related Publications**

16. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available on request :

*Unemployment (Preliminary Estimates)* (6201.0)  
*The Labour Force (Preliminary)* (6202.0)  
*The Labour Force* (6203.0)  
*Employment and Unemployment* (6213.0).

17. All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications 1977* (1101.0).

NOTE. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in tables are due to rounding.

**R. J. CAMERON**  
**Australian Statistician**

## JOB VACANCIES

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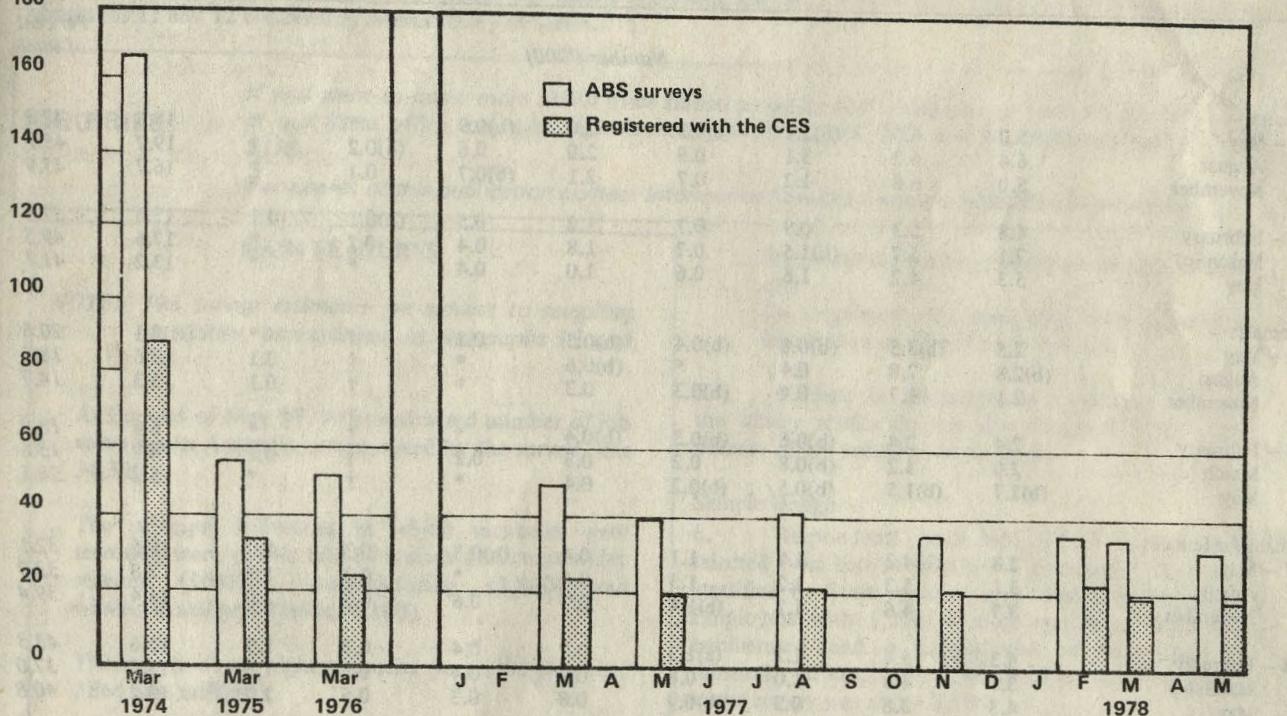


TABLE 1. JOB VACANCIES AND JOB VACANCY RATES (a)

	Number of vacancies ('000)							Ratio of CES figure to ABS total (per cent)	Job vacancy rate (a) (per cent)		
	ABS surveys										
	For males	For females	For males or females	Manufacturing (b)	Other industries (c)	Total	Registered with the CES				
1974 - Mar.	106.4	39.2	19.7	67.8	97.4	165.2	87.6	53	3.6		
1975 - Mar.	31.7	11.3	12.2	15.4	39.8	55.2	34.5	63	1.3		
1976 - Mar.	27.8	11.1	11.8	15.7	30.1	50.8	23.0	45	1.1		
1977 - Mar.	27.5	7.9	14.2	14.0	35.6	49.6	23.5	47	1.2		
May	18.6	8.1	12.6	11.4	27.9	39.3	19.9	51	0.9		
Aug.	19.7	7.6	13.8	12.0	29.0	41.0	20.4	50	0.9		
Nov.	16.7	5.3	14.4	9.3	27.1	36.4	20.3	56	0.9		
1978 - Feb.	13.6	6.8	15.6	9.4	26.6	36.0	22.3	62	0.8		
Mar. (d)	17.6	4.8	13.2	10.5	25.1	35.6	19.5	55	0.9		
May	13.2	5.8	13.2	9.3	23.0	32.2	17.9	56	0.8		

(a) For definitions see paragraphs 8 to 10. (b) ASIC Division C. (c) ASIC Divisions A to L excluding Division C (Manufacturing), Sub-divisions 01, 02 (agriculture, etc.) and 94 (private households employing staff, and defence forces). (d) ABS survey figures are preliminary.

TABLE 2. JOB VACANCIES AND JOB VACANCY RATES (a), STATES AND TERRITORIES  
MAY 1977 TO MAY 1978

Month	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia
JOB VACANCIES									
<i>Number ('000)</i>									
<i>Per cent of total</i>									
For males —									
1977 — May	5.0	6.6	(b)2.1	(e)1.3	2.0	(b)0.9	*	*	18.6
August	6.4	6.2	3.1	0.9	2.0	0.6	(b)0.2	*	19.7
November	5.0	6.8	1.2	0.7	2.1	(b)0.7	0.1	*	16.7
1978 — February	4.8	5.3	0.9	0.7	1.2	0.5	(b)0.1	0.1	13.6
March (c)	7.1	5.7	(b)1.5	0.7	1.8	0.4	0.2	*	17.6
May	5.3	4.2	1.5	0.6	1.0	0.4	*	*	13.2
For females —									
1977 — May	2.5	(b)3.5	(b)0.8	(b)0.4	(b)0.5	0.2	*	*	8.1
August	(b)2.8	2.8	0.4	*	(b)0.6	*	†	0.1	7.6
November	2.1	1.7	0.4	(b)0.3	0.3	*	†	0.1	5.3
1978 — February	2.4	2.4	(b)0.6	(b)0.3	(b)0.4	*	†	*	6.8
March (c)	2.0	1.2	(b)0.8	0.2	0.3	0.2	†	0.1	4.8
May	(b)2.7	(b)1.5	(b)0.5	(b)0.2	0.4	*	†	*	5.8
For males or females —									
1977 — May	2.8	(b)4.3	1.7	1.1	0.4	(b)0.3	0.3	1.7	12.6
August	3.1	5.3	1.2	1.3	0.5	*	0.3	1.8	13.8
November	3.7	4.6	1.2	(e)1.4	0.7	0.6	0.3	2.0	14.4
1978 — February	4.3	5.4	1.2	(e)1.3	0.7	0.4	0.3	1.9	15.6
March (c)	3.5	4.8	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.4	0.3	1.5	13.2
May	4.3	3.8	0.9	(b)0.9	0.8	0.3	0.5	1.7	13.2
Total —									
1977 — May	10.3	14.4	4.6	2.9	2.9	1.4	(b)0.7	2.1	39.3
August	12.3	14.3	4.7	2.7	3.1	(b)1.3	0.5	2.0	41.0
November	10.8	13.2	2.8	2.4	3.0	1.6	0.4	2.3	36.4
1978 — February	11.5	13.1	2.7	2.3	2.3	1.2	0.5	2.4	36.0
March (c)	12.5	11.7	3.3	1.7	3.0	1.0	0.4	1.9	35.6
May	12.2	9.5	2.9	1.8	2.1	1.0	0.6	2.1	32.2
Manufacturing (d) —									
1977 — May	3.5	5.5	*	0.7	0.6	*	(f)	(f)	11.4
August	(b)5.0	4.2	(b)1.0	1.0	(b)0.5	(b)0.2	(f)	(f)	12.0
November	2.3	4.8	(b)0.2	0.6	*	*	(f)	(f)	9.3
1978 — February	2.7	5.0	(b)0.3	(b)0.7	0.4	0.2	(f)	(f)	9.4
March (c)	4.7	4.2	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.2	(f)	(f)	10.5
May	4.1	3.7	(b)0.4	0.5	0.4	(b)0.2	(f)	(f)	9.3
Other industries (e) —									
1977 — May	6.8	8.9	3.7	2.2	2.4	1.1	(f)	(f)	27.9
August	7.3	10.2	3.7	1.7	2.6	(b)1.1	(f)	(f)	29.0
November	8.5	8.3	2.6	(b)1.8	2.3	1.1	(f)	(f)	27.1
1978 — February	8.8	8.1	2.4	1.7	1.9	1.0	(f)	(f)	26.6
March (c)	7.8	7.5	2.9	1.3	2.5	0.8	(f)	(f)	25.1
May	8.1	5.8	(b)2.5	1.3	1.8	0.8	(f)	(f)	23.0
JOB VACANCY RATES (a) (per cent)									
1977 — May	0.7	1.2	0.9	0.7	0.9	1.1	(b)2.7	2.4	0.9
August	0.8	1.2	0.9	0.7	0.9	(b)1.1	1.7	2.4	0.9
November	0.7	1.1	0.5	0.6	0.9	1.3	1.3	2.7	0.9
1978 — February	0.8	1.1	0.5	0.6	0.7	1.0	2.0	2.9	0.8
March (c)	0.9	1.0	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.8	1.5	2.3	0.9
May	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.8	2.3	2.6	0.8

(a) For definitions see paragraphs 8 to 10. (b) Standard error greater than 20 per cent but less than 30 per cent. See paragraph 12. (c) Preliminary, subject to revision. See paragraph 13 regarding comparability of estimates. (d) ASIC Division C. (e) See note (c) to Table 1. (f) Not available.

\* Subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses. † Less than 50.